

Ensign Denise Alexander

Active Duty 08-MAY-2006 through 18-AUG-2006

During my time at the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, MD, I worked on various projects and did many interesting things that sparked my interest in the US Public Health Service and in the field of pharmacy. Some of the projects that I worked on included compiling a



list of chewable tablets that would be used to determine if products should be called "chewable" under the new USP definition, creating a Vocabulary Change Request Form for the CDER

Data Standards Manual, and working on entering

data for the Substance Registration System.



I also enjoyed attending meetings, especially those of the Rapid Deployment



Force and the Junior Officer Advisory Group. In addition to attending and taking minutes at the RDF team meetings, I also

managed their email listserv and added members to the team's eRoom. One of the

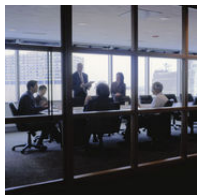
projects I worked on included producing

laminated pediatric dosing guideline cards for antidotes to

weapons of mass destruction; these cards will be handed out to RDF members

for when they need to respond to patients exposed to such things as cyanide,


sarin, and anthrax.



I also attended various meetings with my preceptor, Captain William Hess, Lexicographer, that involved vocabulary issues and topics about nomenclature that are important in the field of pharmacy as well as other healthcare professions. Throughout

the summer, I attended training and continuing education programs, which

included the Beginning Officer Training Course, for which I earned my first award

- this PHS Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon:  It was during my officer training that I learned about the inner workings of the USPHS Commissioned Corps and the Uniformed Services Customs and Courtesies, which helped me to become a better and more informed officer.



I also received Basic Life Support training for CPR and AED use at the National Institute of Health. I worked toward becoming "Basic Ready" which involved getting the required vaccinations and completing online training.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed my time at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, and I am sad to leave the place that has proved to be a truly unique experience.